

(Which my most true and inward duteous spirit
 Teacheth⁸;) this prostrate and exterior
 bending⁹!
 Heaven witness with me, when I here
 came in,
 And found no course of breath within your
 majesty,
 How cold it struck my heart! if I do feign,
 O, let me in my present wildness die:
 And never live to show the incredulous
 world
 The noble change that I have purposed I
 Coming to look on you, thinking you dead,
 (And dead almost, my liege, to think you
 were.)
 I spake unto the crown, as having sense,
 And thus upbraided it. *The care on thee
 depending**
Hath fed upon the body of my father ;
Therefore, thou, best of gold, art worst of
gold.
Other, less fine in carat, is more precious,
Preserving life in medicine potable⁶ :

⁸ Which my most true, &c. ¹ True is loyal.—This passage is obscure in the construction, though the general meaning is clear enough. The order is, "this obedience which is taught this exterior bending by my duteous spirit," or, "this obedience which teaches this exterior bending to my inwardly duteous spirit." I know not which is right. JOHNSON.

The former construction appears to me the least exceptionable of the two; but both are extremely harsh, and neither of them. I think the true construction. MALONE.

The latter words—"this prostrate and exterior bending"—appear to me to be merely explanatory of the former words—"this obedience." Suppose the intermediate sentence—"which my most true and inward-duteous spirit teacheth"—to be included in a parenthesis, and the meaning I contend for will be evident.

M. MASON.

I have adopted Mr. M. Mason's regulation,
 STEVENS.

^{*6} Which my most true and inward-duteous spirit
 Teacheth⁷ i. e. which my loyalty and inward
 sense of duty
 prompt me to. The words, "this prostrate and
 exterior bending,"
 are, I apprehend, put in apposition with "obedience," which is
 used for *obeisance*. MALONE.

⁹ — in medicine POTABLE :] There has long prevailed an opinion that a solution of gold has great medicinal virtues, and that the incorruptibility of gold might be communicated to the body impregnated with it. Some have pretended to

make
gold among other frauds practised on credulity.
JOHNSON.

notable